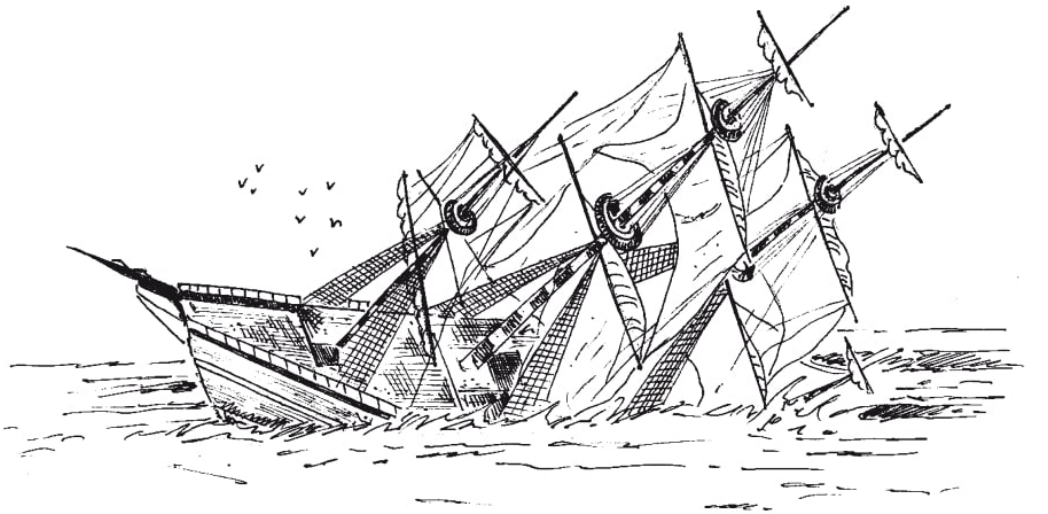
The Bread Loaf School of English

presents

THE TEMPEST

By William Shakespeare



Directed by Brian McEleney
2023

The Tempest

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Brian McEleney
Assistant directed by Eric Barber
with original music by Brad Goren-Wilson
and movement by Shelley Fort

CAST

in order of appearance

Stephen Thorne* ..... Prospero
Misao McGregor ..... Master of a Ship
Tom Huntoon ..... Boatswain
Jessica Ko* ..... Alonso, King of Naples
Cindy Rosenthal* ..... Gonzalo, a counselor
Jim Pratzon* ..... Sebastian, Alonso's brother
Chris Ryan* ..... Antonio, Prospero's brother
José Espinosa* ..... Ferdinand, son of Alonso
Lila Oren-Dahan ..... Adrian, a courtier
Angelo C. Gooch ..... Francisco, a courtier
Madison Middleton ..... Miranda, Prospero's daughter
Khaia Gordon ..... Ensemble
Jackie Medina ..... Ensemble
Roddy Pratt ..... Ensemble
Leo Steinfeld ..... Ensemble
Vivien Thorne ..... Ensemble
Cherie Corinne Rice* ..... Ariel, a spirit
Matthew Russell* ..... Caliban
Shelley Fort* ..... Trinculo, a jester
Brad Goren-Wilson ..... Stephano, a drunken butler

*Appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American Actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards.

Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production.

AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.

ARTISTIC STAFF

Director	Brian McEleney
Composer	Brad Goren-Wilson
Set Designer	Michael McGarty
Lighting Designer	Bryon Winn
Costume Designer	Toni Spadafora-Sadler
Costume Associate	Rachel Dulude
Costume Assistant	Elizabeth McClellan

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Technical Director	Andrew Nyberg
Stage Manager	Gracie Carleton*
Theatre Manager	Madison Middleton

TECHNICAL STAFF

Master Carpenter	Natalie Penna
Master Electrician	Titus O'Neil
Swing Technician	Catherine Farrell
Props Master/Scenic Artist	Maxine Walby

SPECIAL THANKS

Emily Bartels, Lyndon Dominique, Amy Stern, Mary Spence, Dana Olsen, Gail Borden, Dianne Baroz, Gillian Zieger, Alena Weller, Brenda Healy, Mery Lizardo, Karen Browne, Edward and Victoria Brown and the Front Desk Staff, the Letterpress Cabin, Nick Sirianno, Darren Zeno and the Kitchen Staff, Justin Allen and the Facilities and Housekeeping Crew, Heath Hansum, Trinity Repertory Company, the Middlebury College Department of Theatre

FROM THE DIRECTOR

All right. I admit it. It's all my fault. I should have programmed *The Sun Also Rises*. Or *A Raisin In The Sun*. Or *Rebecca Of Sunnybrook Farm*. Anything but *The Tempest*!

We've been rehearsing this play during days of terrifying thunder and lightning, of incessant violent downpours, of road closures, power outages and other reminders of the awesome power of nature. Our rehearsals have been filled with an awareness of the puniness of our human place on this globe and the pettiness of our human squabbles. *The Tempest* asks us to reflect on what is to be gained from our relentless human desire for conflict and revenge. To me *The Tempest* is ultimately about forgiveness. About change. About letting go. About admitting, as Dickens says in *A Christmas Carol*, "that we are all fellow-travellers to the grave," and that the elaborately constructed divisions that we, as humans, cherish and depend upon for our very identities are even more destructive than the natural forces that threaten our existence.

The Tempest takes place on a magical island, an imagined world of spirits, spells and other-worldly creatures. It is often seen as a metaphor for European colonialism, for the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and for the subjugation of indigenous peoples. This reading is powerful and undeniable, and hovers painfully over any production of the play. Anti-colonialism, however, cannot be the sole response to Shakespeare's play, which like any great work of art contains a multitude of meanings, metaphors and interpretations, and provokes an equal multitude of varied responses in the minds of individual audience members. Metaphor, by its very nature, allows us to see more than one thing at the same time. Prospero can be an oppressor, but at the same time he can be a wizard, a father, and a flawed and believable human who undergoes the painful process of change that is at the heart of Shakespeare's play.

People can change. Prospero changes. And it's painful. This, to me, is the subject of the play, and of all great dramatic art. Whenever I start rehearsal —as an actor, as a director, or as a teacher—I try to follow a play's depiction of character transformation and to remember how incredibly difficult it is for human beings to change. I try to recall the words of Tony Kushner, in his masterpiece *Angels In America*, who addresses this thought explicitly through the character of the Mormon Mother:

> "How do people change? Well, it has something to do with God, so it's not very nice. God splits the skin with a jagged thumbnail from throat to belly and then plunges a huge filthy hand in, he grabs hold of your bloody tubes and they slip to evade his grasp but he squeezes hard, he insists, he pulls and pulls till all your innards are yanked out and the pain! We can't even talk about that. And then he stuffs them back, dirty, tangled and torn. It's up to you to do the stitching. And then get up. And walk around. Just mangled guts pretending. And that's how people change."

The real magic in *The Tempest* is not the spells, the spirits or the creatures. The real magic is the transformation that occurs in the hearts and minds of the characters. And, as in many of Shakespeare's plays, the transformation is only accomplished through a seemingly miraculous return from the dead, from "the undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns," a return that brings the living back to life.

A play is only a play, "the stuff that dreams are made on." But I hope this production of this play might give us a momentary glimpse, as in a dream, of what it might be like to imagine a day when the clouds, the noise, the thunder and the floods of our personal and political tempests might pass like a storm retreating over Bread Loaf Mountain—to find us awaking, through forgiveness, to a gentle sunny morning. Soggy, dirty, tangled and torn, but ready to start anew.

—Brian McEleney

BREAD LOAF ACTING ENSEMBLE

José Espinosa he/him (Ferdinand) is an actor, filmmaker, and teaching artist based in Brooklyn. Bread Loaf debut. Broadway: *Take Me Out* (u/s) Off-Broadway: *Fuente Ovejuna* (TFANA), *Los Complicados* (EST). Regional: *Curve of Departure* (Chester), *The Other World*, *The Meal* (Yale Cabaret). In the Fall, José will be seen Off-Broadway in the New York premiere of *Our Class* by Polish playwright Tadeusz Slobozianek. MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Shelley Fort (Trinculo) is happy to be back on the mountain! An LA-based actor and producer, she's most proud of her recent short film *Pieces of a Memory* (Micheaux Film Fest). Some of her favorite roles include Annie, *The Play That Goes Wrong*; Camae, *The Mountaintop*; Zoe, *An Octoroon*, and Cressida in BL's *Troilus and Cressida*. Her writing has been seen at the National Black Theater, the Fire This Time Fest, and the Classical Theatre of Harlem. Her dad (poet Charles Fort) is an alum of the BL Writers' Conference. BA Kenyon College, MFA Brown U.

Brad Goren-Wilson he/him (Stephano; Composer) is a professional actor and playwright based in Salem, Massachusetts. Previous Bread Loaf credits include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Johnny Eyre*. He has also performed at Trinity Rep, McCarter Theater, Theater at Monmouth, HERE Arts, and Carnegie Hall. As a playwright, he was a winner of the Purple Crayon PlayGround Festival 2019, a semifinalist for the Blue Ink Award 2020, and a finalist for the Kitchen Dog New Works Festival 2020. He is a lecturer in drama at Salem State University.

Jessica Ko she/her (Alonso) returns to Bread Loaf since playing Agamemnon in 2014's *Troilus and Cressida*. Other credits include: South Coast Repertory, Berkshire Theatre Group, Chautauqua Theatre Company, Trinity Repertory Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Flea Theater, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and four seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival—notably as lead Dou Yi in *Snow In Midsummer* (U.S. Premiere); Rosalind in *As You Like It*; Princess Katherine/Boy/Montjoy in *Henry V*; and originating the Shapeshifter in *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo* (World Premiere). As part of Center Theatre Group's 2021–2022 Writer's Workshop, her original play was presented at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in Los Angeles; and later chosen as a semi-finalist for the 2023 Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference.

Madison Middleton they/them (Miranda) is a theatre, music, and teaching artist originally from the Washington, D.C., area and currently based in Middlebury, Vermont. They are thrilled to return to the Mountain, having previously worked on *Jane Eyre* and *Johnny Eyre*. Select acting credits include *Rhinoceros*, *Botticelli in the Fire*, *Company*, *The Orphan Muses*, *The Light in the*

Piazza, *Julius Caesar*, *Polaroid Stories*, *Avenue Q*, *Cabaret*, *tick, tick . . . BOOM!*, *August: Osage County*, *Proof*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Middleton is a graduate of Middlebury College.

Cherie Corinne Rice she/her (Ariel) is an actor, playwright, director, producer, dialect coach, educator, and founder of Guided Inspiration LLC, guidedinspo.com. Her acting credits include *Lavender Men* (Upcoming), *Extramundane* (Amazon Prime), *Nightcap* (PopTV), *Nurse Jackie* (Showtime), *The White Devil* (Off-B'way), *Twelfth Night* (Trinity Rep), *Romeo and Juliet* (SFSTL). Rice is a graduate of the Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA Acting Program and UC Berkeley's Theater and Performance Studies program.

Cindy Rosenthal she/her (Gonzalo) is thrilled to perform *The Tempest* with this beautiful company in her favorite idyll. She is a proud founding member of the Bread Loaf Acting Ensemble (since 1986). Some BL roles she especially loved include the Countess in *All's Well*, Emilia in *Othello*, and the Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. She lives in Manhattan and is Professor of Drama and Director of Women's Studies at Hofstra University. Her book, *Ellen Stewart Presents: Fifty Years of La MaMa Experimental Theatre* won the 2018 George Freedley Memorial Award.

Matthew Russell (Caliban) is a New York City based theatre/film artist who is loving his first summer on the mountain. He has performed on Broadway, at Trinity Rep, the Public, the Shed, Shakespeare Theatre Co., Studio Theatre, Northern Stage, and others. Film/TV work includes *Westworld*, *Working Man*, *Some Freaks*, and the upcoming film *Man & Witch*. He has worked as a video editor on projects for Rattlestick, Vineyard Theatre, and Movement Theatre Co. and has taught editing and acting at NYU, Atlantic Conservatory, Brown University, and MCC. He is the cocreator of the webseries *Love in NY*, which has featured over 300 artists since 2018 Øincluding several of *The Tempest* cast! MFA Brown/Trinity Rep.

Stephen Thorne he/him (Prospero) is a professional actor, director, and audiobook narrator. He has been a Breadloaf Acting Ensemble member since 1999. For many years he has been a member of the Resident Acting Company at Trinity Rep in Providence, Rhode Island. Stephen is very grateful to be spending another summer at Bread Loaf with Angela and Dash and Viv and Coco.

COMMUNITY ACTORS

Angelo C. Gooch he/they (Francisco) is an actor from South Carolina. He completed his major in fine arts performance at University of South Carolina Aiken in 2022. Favorite roles include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Charlie Brown in *Snoopy*!!! *The Musical*. He is very excited to be returning to Bread Loaf as a performer and as a student.

Khaia Gordon she/her (Spirit/Ensemble) is 11 years old and this is her 11th year at Bread Loaf. Khaia was in last year's performance of *Jane Eyre*. She is excited to be in the role of a spirit in *The Tempest*. And happy to be there with her two friends Viv and Jackie.

Tom Huntoon he/him (Boatswain) is a high-school English teacher in San Francisco. He has not acted since ninth grade, but he's delighted to join this talented company to perform *The Tempest*. He's reveled in the creative process that has unfolded this summer, and he's eager to bring back some of his learning to the classroom.

Jackie Medina he/him (Spirit/Ensemble) is nine years old and lives in San Jose, California. He enjoys sports, music, and drama. This past year, he performed in *Seussical*, and both his flag football and baseball teams took first place in their leagues.

Misao McGregor they/them (Master of a Ship) is a playwright and singer/songwriter based in Central Louisiana. They earned their BA in theater and music from Connecticut College, and have served as founder and editor in chief of Sacrosanct Collective, a community blog that amplifies the voices and art of LGBTQ2IA+ BIPOC, since 2020. As a playwright, they are winner of the Anne S. Richardson Awards in LGBTQ Studies (2016), Morris Carnovsky Award in Theater (2018), Linda Herr Excellence in Theater Award (2018), and Best of PlayGround (2020). They also participated in the Playwright Residency Program for PlayGround-LA's 2020–2021 Season, developing their full-length play *Adulting*.

Lila Oren-Dahan she/they (Adrian) is a ninth grade English teacher and 11/12 IB theatre teacher in Western Massachusetts. Lila went to high school in Northern New Jersey, where the easy commute to New York City provided access for cheap student and rush tickets to bolster their love for theatre. At work, she leads the high school theatre club, outside of work she's wiggling her way into the local community theatre scene. Recent credits include: *Twelfth Night* (Curio, assistant stage manager, sound operator), *The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Nighttime* (stage manager), and *Clue* (Yvette, Scarlet u/s). Lila is super grateful for the opportunity to work with and learn from this cast and crew.

Roddy Pratt he/him (Ensemble) is a high school English teacher and a newcomer to theater productions. Dramatic texts tend to be his favorite units, and he figured taking part as a creator would be the best way to continue improving his craft. Outside of teaching, Roddy plays guitar and writes a song or two.

Jim Pratzon he/him (Sebastian) first appeared here in the Little Theatre last summer in *Johnny Eyre*. He is the director of the Lyons' Needs Theatre Company at the Lyons Community School in Brooklyn. In a previous life, Jim appeared regionally and OOB in over a dozen Shakespeare roles as well as *On The Verge*, *What The Butler Saw*, *The Miser* and *Mission: Byzantium*! Jim has recorded ten audiobooks for the New York Public Library, including *The Complete Short Stories of H.P. Lovecraft*, the (unabridged) *Martin Chuzzlewit* by Charles Dickens, and *Days of Devotion: Daily Meditations of Pope John Paul II*.

Christian Ryan he/him (Antonio) is an NYC-based actor and director. Theater includes: *Macbeth* (Orlando Shakespeare); *Shakespeare in Love* (Capital Rep); *Cymbeline* (NY Classical); *The Chekhov Dreams* (Theater Row); *Picture Ourselves in Latvia* (Access Theater); *Twelfth Night* (Westport Playhouse); *The Great Gatsby* (Alabama Shakespeare) and others. TV/Film: *The Narrows* (upcoming), *FBI*, *American Horror Story: NYC*, *The Blacklist*, *Dementia 13*. He directed *Tape & Bachelorette* for GoodBadGroup and *The Tempest & Macbeth* at Speyer Legacy School. He is currently developing a pilot about football.

Leo Steinfeld (Ensemble) is going into sixth grade. He loves all sports (especially tennis and basketball), playing Zelda, eating candy, and playing the piano. He is also a big Swiftie. Leo is really excited to be in his first production at BL (in his second summer on the mountain), and wants to thank Brian and the whole team for welcoming him to the show so warmly.

Vivien Thorne they/them (Ensemble) is a reader, writer, and aspiring guitarist. They are from Rhode Island, and are entering eighth grade. This is their second Bread Loaf play, having participated in *Jane Eyre* last summer. Their favorite things to do are swim, read, and draw. This is their 11th summer at Bread Loaf, and they hope for many more. They want to continue to experience art in its many forms, and create some themselves.

Jamie Wheeler (Fiddle) is letterpress assistant at Bread Loaf and during the rest of the year a PhD candidate in classics at Princeton. She loves folk music, Shakespeare, and the creative process, and is thrilled to bring these all together this summer. Drop by the printer's cabin and print your favorite line from *The Tempest*!

ARTISTIC STAFF

Eric David Barber he/him (Assistant Director) never dreamed of teaching theater; he was a choir kid in high school and went to college to teach English. His life changed when he accepted a teaching position near his hometown of Lubbock, Texas, at a tiny, rural school to teach English and theater. With almost no background knowledge and few resources, he built a successful theater program at his school and gained a newfound admiration for the arts. Eric believes the arts are vital to making students successful in the general education classroom because the arts reinforce academic content in a way that is hands-on, collaborative, and interdisciplinary, synthesizing what is being learned in the classroom and applying that knowledge to long-term, project-based learning with tangible end results.

Rachel Dulude she/her (Costume Associate) is a professional actor and audiobook narrator based in Providence, Rhode Island. She has spent several summers at Bread Loaf working in the Little Theatre's costume shop, and is so thrilled to be back!

Brian McEleney he/him (Director) is Head of the Bread Loaf Theatre Program, where he has directed productions of *Othello, U.S.A.*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Blues For Mister Charlie*, *Troilus And Cressida*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo And Juliet*, and his own adaptations of *A Tale Of Two Cities* and *Jane/Johnny Eyre*. He is also a long-time resident actor and director at Trinity Repertory Company in Providence and founding director of the Brown University/Trinity Rep MFA Acting Program.

Michael McGarty (Set Designer) is a set designer for theatre and opera with multiple credits on Broadway, off-Broadway, regional theatre and Europe. He is a resident artist at Trinity Rep Company and teaches set design at Rhode Island School of Design.

Toni Spadfora-Sadler she/her (Costume Designer) has worked in regional theatre, Broadway, opera, commercials, television, film, and football stadiums—having costumed the opening and closing ceremonies for the 1984 Summer Olympics. As a designer, she has also worked in the fashion industry designing for retailers Chicos and Lane Bryant and managed the workroom of Bob Mackie. As a collage artist, her recent one woman show, *Journey: People, Patterns, Puzzles* at Cotuit Center for the Arts on Cape Cod was a dream come true. This is her first summer at Bread Loaf.

Bryon Winn he/him (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be returning to Bread Loaf for his 21st season. Bryon's theatre design work has been seen at Portland Stage Company, Trinity Rep, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Florida Studio Theatre. His entertainment design work has been seen in ballrooms, performing arts centers, arenas, and even airplane hangers, throughout the country. Bryon also serves as the Director of Theatre at the University of Iowa.

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Gracie Carleton she/her (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of this production in the beautiful mountains of Vermont! Gracie is a Massachusetts born, New York based stage manager. Recent Shows: *The Cotillion* (New Georges /the Movement Theatre Company); *Living & Breathing* (Two River Theater, New Jersey); *Big Shot* (Chase Brock Experience); *I'm Revolting, English* (Atlantic Theatre Company); *Whitelisted, The Fifth Domain* (Contemporary American Theater Festival, WV); *Which Way to the Stage* (MCC); *The Chinese Lady*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *On the Grounds of Belonging*, *Miller*, *Mississippi* (Long Wharf Theatre, CT). Thank you, Amy, for your mentorship and trust, and James for always being there.

Madison Middleton they/them (Theatre Manager) is thrilled to return to the mountain as the Little Theatre's manager! As a Middlebury College undergraduate, they served as the president (or the "Zoo Keeper") of the Hepburn Zoo Theatre, the student-run black box theatre. During the nonsummer months, they are the program assistant and a faculty artist with Beyond the Page and has assistant directed and sound designed for the Middlebury College Department of Theatre.

Andrew Nyberg he/him (Technical Director) has been a part of the Bread Loaf theatre crew in various roles since 2015, stepping into his current position in 2022. Away from Bread Loaf, he is a lead carpenter at Pink Sparrow Fabrication & Design in Brooklyn, New York, and an occasional freelance scenic designer and set carpenter.

TECHNICAL STAFF

Catherine Farrell she/her (Swing Technician) is a professional actor and writer based out of Kansas City but takes an affinity to technical theatre during the summer months. She recently graduated with her undergraduate from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she received a BFA in acting and BA in magazine writing. In the fall, Catherine will be moving to Stratford Upon-Avon, England, to pursue a MA in Shakespeare and Creativity at the Shakespeare Institute, partnered with the Royal Shakespeare Company. She is very excited for this opportunity and has enjoyed allowing *The Tempest* to be a precursor to her next year with the Bard.

Ethan McBee he/him (Student Technical Assistant) is thrilled to be working on his first Bread Loaf production since performing on stage in *A Tale of Two Cities* (2018). During the school year he teaches English, coaches cross country, and, alongside his best friend and partner in life, oversees the theatre program at Rockford Lutheran in the windy plains of northern Illinois.

Elizabeth McClellan she/her (Student Costume Assistant) teaches ninth grade English and coaches field hockey in Holderness, New Hampshire. After learning how to make clothes as a kid, she started her costuming side-career in undergrad, completing garment construction for various dance and theater performances.

Titus O'Neil he/him (Master Electrician) finds himself in his fourth year working on the mountain. During the year, Titus is the technical director and teacher for Solebury School in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He continues to work as a freelance designer and actor throughout most of the tri-state area, and most recently has begun a journey as a published poet.

Natalie Penna any pronouns (Master Carpenter) is a senior English major at Middlebury College from Albany, New York, and is very excited to have worked on her first show at Bread Loaf! Previous work at Middlebury includes *Dinner with Friends* (technical direction), *The Nightman Cometh* (Scenic design/technical direction), and 00productions' *An American in Paris* (scenic design/carpenter). During the year, Natalie also works as a production assistant on faculty shows in Middlebury College's scene shop.

Maxine Walby she/they (Props Master and Paint Charge) is a theatre artisan based in Michigan. She is thrilled to be spending her first summer in the mountains exploring the woods and working with an amazing group. During the year she works as the props master and paint charge at Detroit Country Day School as well as guiding the students in their after school theater productions. She has also worked with Shakespeare Royal Oak and the Arkansas Shakespeare Company.

Middlebury Bread Loaf
School *of* English